



12 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Torrential rainstorms aside, we have had a wonderful first full week of the school year! I will start with a thank you to all students (and of course to you!) for their cooperation during the annual photo day – students looked smiley and smart, and Tempest Photographers were hugely complimentary on their conduct. Parents can expect to receive copies next week with details of how to purchase.

As promised last week here are some student success stories that have reached us from over the summer:

**Lily-Mae P (Y9)** – Lily-Mae had a stall at a market for the first time since beginning crochet at 11 years old last week where she was selling soft toys that she had knitted herself.



**Ellie (Y9)** - Ellie has been hard at work fundraising for an International Guiding Trip in summer 2027 to Canada. At the end of the summer, she embarked on a 75-mile canoe along the Thames from Reading to central London over 3 days.

**Jorgia (Y11), Etta (Y8) and Charlotte (Y8)** auditioned over the break for the Kenton Theatre in Henley on Thames' production of High School Musical which will be staged later in the Autumn. Following initial auditions the girls were "promoted" to the dance scenes on top of their ensemble roles.

**Poppy E, Poppy M and Eleanor (Y10)** all trialled for Wycombe Football Academy and all three got a place.

**Jack, Charlie and Spencer (Y11)** organised a concert as part of their fundraising for the upcoming Kenya trip. Together they perform as "Twenty Ten". The boys planned and practised a set of 14 songs; they were fantastic on the day! Showed such confidence, professionalism, and interacted with the crown, explained about the trip, and raised a staggering £1,142.54!!



I know lots of the students who are signed up for the Kenya trip have also been hard at work over the summer earning money through gardening, pet sitting, car washing and even clothes selling through Vinted! There are plans afoot for some bigger events over the next few months too which I will share details of in due course.

In my opening assemblies with students, I highlighted the importance of strong school attendance on academic progress and outcomes. I was very pleased to see that at the end of this week our school attendance sits at 93.4% - around 4% higher than where we left it in July. This is fantastic and I wanted to extend a thank you to you all for supporting and reiterating the importance of being here (and being on time!). I must make a particular





mention to Year 9 who are currently on 97.1% - simply fantastic! We currently have 8 tutor groups (11B, 10B, 9A, 9B, 9C, 8A, 7A and 7C) at 94% attendance and above!

I also highlighted the importance of positive and active engagement in their learning – both for their own academic progress but also to allow their peers (and friends) to realise their potential. I was therefore delighted when I reviewed the house points and behaviour points issued this term so far to see the huge numbers of House Points (praise) and the very small number of behaviour points that have been issued. As it stands 75% of students across the school haven't received a behaviour point at all and every single student has opened their tally of House Points. Some of our top scorers can be seen in photos below from across the year groups – a huge well done to them, and to all the students for the positive start they have made.



My final strand in assemblies was to encourage students to take advantage of the opportunities available to them and we were really pleased to see a bumper turnout at GCSE Maths support on Tuesday afternoon. Next week our full extracurricular programme kicks into action – students will receive a schedule of what is available, and we strongly encourage them to “have a go”. We have also announced our school production for the upcoming year – Sister Act! Audition sign up sheets are fast filling up going with these and then rehearsals before the month is out.





This morning, I held my first “Hot Chocolate with the Head” with a group of Y7 students who were highly commended for their efforts in the “All About Me” project from over the summer. I had around 60 entries to read through and have learned lots about our new cohort including some of their favourite singers (Sabrina Carpenter featured heavily), their siblings, holidays, best school subjects and more than I probably ever needed to know about their pets! The entries ranged from posters to PowerPoint presentations, sculptures to songs and even a specially crafted board game! The thought and care that students put into producing them was fantastic and it was a pleasure for Mrs Haycock (Head of Y7) and I to sit and chat to a select few this morning.



**A quick heads up of some upcoming dates:**

Year group information evenings:

Year 7	Mrs Haycock	Thursday 18 September – 5:00pm	In person
Year 8	Mrs Haycock	Wednesday 24 September – 5:30pm	Online
Year 9	Miss Jackson	Wednesday 24 September – 5:30pm	Online
Year 10	Miss Jackson	Thursday 18 September - 6:15pm	In person
Year 11	Mr Mount	Wednesday 17 September – 6:15pm	Online

**Open Evening** – Tuesday 30 September 2025 (Students finish at 1:30pm)

**Half Term Dates** – 22 October – 3 November 2025

Further information about Open Evening will be coming next week. You will remember from your own visits how great it is to have as many students as possible on site that evening acting as guides or helping in departments – so if your son / daughter is available and willing to help please do provide the consent when the letter comes out!





**MAIDEN ERLEGH**  
CHILTERN EDGE

**Headteacher: Emma Bliss**  
MA, NPQH

Reades Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9LN  
0118 972 1500  
meceoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org  
www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk  
@MaidenErleghTru

And finally, I know many of you already follow us on our various social media channels and I wanted to thank you for the positive interactions and sharing of our good news stories and upcoming Open Events. I will be doing the "tours" of the local Primary Schools in the upcoming weeks to speak to Y5 and 6 students and parents, but we also know that parent word of mouth is incredibly powerful – so if you feel so inclined could I request you share details of our upcoming Open Events within your own social circles too.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Bliss  
Headteacher

